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TV composer speaks to 'next generation' of music students

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 Class Editor

Composer Ron Jones and his wife recently paid Clackamas a visit two weeks ago to talk to music students about what it takes to live in the real world as a musician.

Jones, who lives in Los Angeles, composed music for a variety of television shows including "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and "Family Guy." Back in 1971, Jones attended Clackamas and is grateful for the time spent here.

While at CCC the place and the people and even my fellow students were like family to me," said Jones. "For most people that life is what you get, not what the world presents. There was a confluence of the right people and a kid like me ready to learn and learn everything I could. My Anderson and Judy Hylton opened many doors and gave me the chance to compose for all the groups. When I eventually went to the four-year and beyond educational institutions, I did not find this kind of environment," he continued. "There were classes with over 300 students and no way to ask a teacher a question ... They even call them lecture halls. Like, just sit there and listen and espouse knowledge to the masses. That is not conducive to the fullness of education. It's more like a factory cranking out a product."

Jones insists that even when faced with this sort of environment, students can make it workable although it is more challenging.

Jones spent the week speaking in the Music Department with the different classes, from Concert Band to Music Theory.

"There is hope!" he said to students in Music Theory I. "I wasn't a student - I don't know why I didn't kick me out. Don't give up. If such a bozo as me can do it, you can do it now ..."

Music Theory instructor Judy Hylton



Contributed Photo

Composer Ron Jones conducts a recording session for "Family Guy" at 20th Century FOX in the Newman Scoring Stage. Jones recently visited the campus to spend time with the students and faculty in the Music Department.

agrees with his assessment of himself as not being a good student.

"But," she said, "even then he was driven. He wanted to write music. We encouraged him and didn't worry about his grades. I'm proud that he went to school here and has fond memories of it. I think he taught himself more than anything."

"Ron is a musician who works at the very top of the industry," said Music Department Head Tom Wakeling. "His knowledge and experience are important for our students to know. It is important for our students to experience the energy and 'aura' of

a person who is so accomplished."

Another purpose for Jones's visit was to share new music technologies with the college.

"I have been at the forefront of music technology," he said. "We use technology to assist in the making of music and media in really amazing ways. These techniques and practices are usually five to 10 years ahead of where music education is."

As a part of sharing trends and practices in technology, Jones has put forth the idea of having a class in his studio in LA which would link to Clackamas by means of video confer-

ence.

"We discussed this notion when Ron was here," said Wakeling. "It has not gone any farther yet, but we are in full support and look forward to bringing it to reality. The idea that our students will be able to take a class with Ron, see inside Fox television's recording studio, and converse with Ron and some of Hollywood's best studio musicians is very exciting for all of us."

At the end of the week, Jones said he enjoyed his visit here.

"The Monsoon rain I can do without," he said. "I am now used to being

in shorts and sunshine year round ... But I did not come up to be a tourist or get a tan, I came up to be with the faculty and students. And that, I hope, was meaningful to them. It was to me."

In all his talks, Jones encouraged students to "make something out of every little thing."

"The students can make CCC the best college on earth," he said, "by making a commitment inside to not just pass through attempting to do the minimum, just grab the brownie points of requirements. Instead, embrace the greater purpose of learning."

2006 Scholarship Preview

Students needing cash for credits: The colleges Scholarship Open Enrollment for the 2006-07 academic year began on Monday, Jan. 23.

To be eligible for scholarships, students must be enrolled and plan to enroll at least part-time (6 credits) at the Clackamas, or transfer to a four-year college or university in 2006-07. Students must also have a high school diploma (or GED or equivalent), and have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher.

"CCC scholarships are just like [scholarships of] any other organization; students have one term to apply for scholarships," Scholarship Coordinator Chitpasong Bello said, "this is the term [students must] apply for scholarships."

"We want to make it as simple for students as possible," Bello said, "[students] only have to fill out one application to be considered for all scholarships that they are eligible for."

"In addition to two letters of recommendation and [an] unofficial transcript, the student needs to write a 500 word essay," Bello said. "In the essays, we ask them to talk about life circumstances, why they need the scholarship, and so forth."

Scholarship applications and additional information on scholarship opportunities are available online at <http://depts.clackamas.edu/fs/scholarship.asp>. There are also scholarship classes available to students, and the schedule can be found at <http://depts.clackamas.edu/fs/importantdates.asp>.

All scholarship applications must be turned into the Student Financial Services Office (or postmarked) by March 13, at 5 p.m. The names of those who have been awarded scholarships will be posted on May 17, at <http://depts.clackamas.edu/fs/scholarship.asp>.

-Compiled by Jadon Triplett, The Clackamas Print

Coming up ...

Get a needle stuck in your arm and your blood siphoned for a good cause. ASG is hosting a **blood drive today** in the Community Center. For more information or to sign up, contact the ASG office at 503-657-6958 ext. 2245.

Want to be on TV? The college is trying to put together a team for the OPB show "High Five." Testing will be held Tuesday in Barlow 241 at 3:30 p.m. The test will be a multiple choice, general knowledge test. Those with the highest scores will go on to the next phase of testing.

Transfer Day is tomorrow in the Gregory Forum from 10 - 2 p.m. Representatives from more than 30 colleges and universities will visit with students interested in pursuing four-year degrees. Students will be able to ask questions about the schools, programs and the transfer process. There will be door prizes as well. For more information call Ariane Amstutz at 503-657-6958, ext. 2516, or e-mail arianea@clackamas.edu.